

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hub assembly in combination with an umbrella frame having a pole member comprising:

a hub member having a central aperture, said hub member movably mounted on the pole member of the umbrella frame and slidable along a length of the pole member between a bottom end and a top end thereof,

said hub member having an upper portion and a lower portion,

a band secured about to an exterior peripheral surface of said hub member substantially adjacent said upper portion,

and a plurality of brackets disposed in overlying relation to said band and fixedly connected to said hub member, each of said plurality of brackets pivotally connected to an end of a corresponding strut member of the umbrella frame.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim

13, wherein said channel has a height dimension that is sized to correspond generally with a height dimension of said brackets.

4. (Original) A hub assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said hub member includes a waist portion, said waist portion being of smaller diameter than said upper and lower portions.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Withdrawn) A hub assembly for an umbrella frame comprising:

a hub member having a central aperture sized to receive a pole member of the umbrella frame, said hub member being capable of sliding between a bottom end and a top end of the pole,

said hub member having an upper portion and a lower portion separate from one another,

a ring also having a central aperture also sized to receive the pole member of the umbrella frame and capable of sliding between the bottom end and top end of the pole member, said ring including a first exposed, horizontally oriented surface and a second exposed horizontally oriented

surface,

    said upper portion of said hub member being adjacent to said first exposed ring surface and said lower portion of said hub member being adjacent to said second exposed ring surface in an assembled orientation, and

    said ring including a plurality of brackets structured to pivotally receive an end of a strut member of the umbrella frame.

8. (Withdrawn) A hub assembly as recited in claim 7 wherein said ring is of a solid, one piece construction and said brackets are pre-formed.
9. (Withdrawn) A hub assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein at least some of said pre-formed brackets of said ring have an interior surface with a generally "U" shape.
10. (Withdrawn) A hub assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein at least some of said pre-formed brackets of said ring have an interior surface with a generally "V" shape.
11. (Withdrawn) A hub assembly as recited in claim 9 wherein said ring includes at least 8 of said pre-formed brackets.
12. (Original) An umbrella frame comprising:

    a pole member having a longitudinal axis, a bottom end and a top end, said pole member also having a retaining pin

slot extending therethrough;

a main hub member secured about said central pole member, said main hub member capable of sliding between said bottom and said top ends, said main hub member also capable of rotating about the axis of said pole member,

said main hub member having an upper portion and a lower portion and a band secured about a periphery thereof between said upper and lower portions,

a plurality of brackets secured to said band and hub member to pivotally receive a first end of a strut member of the umbrella frame,

a secondary hub member secured to said pole member near said pole top end, said secondary hub member also capable of rotating about said central pole axis,

a plurality of rib members pivotally secured to said secondary hub member,

a plurality of strut members each having an inner and an outer end, said inner ends being pivotally secured to said main hub member, said outer end of each of said strut members being pivotally secured to a respective one of said rib members,

a pin member extendable within said retaining pin slot

for maintaining said main hub member in position along said pole member, and

means for securing said pin member to said main hub member so as to allow said umbrella frame to rotate freely about said pole member when said pin member is placed within said retaining pin slot.

13. (Currently Amended) A hub assembly for an umbrella frame comprising:

a hub member having a central aperture sized to receive a pole member of the umbrella frame, said hub member being capable of sliding between a bottom end and a top end of the pole member,

said hub member having an upper portion and a lower portion,

a band secured to said hub member about a periphery thereof of said hub member between said upper and lower portions,

~~a plurality of brackets secured to said band and hub member which are structured to pivotally receive an end of a strut member of the umbrella frame, and~~

a channel formed generally in said upper portion, said channel being defined by at least a lower ledge extending

about a periphery of said hub member, and wherein said band is secured to said hub member about said channel[.], and a plurality of brackets disposed within said channel in overlying relation to said band and fixedly secured to said hub member, wherein said brackets are structured to pivotally receive an end of a strut member of the umbrella frame.

14. (Currently Amended) A hub assembly in combination with an umbrella frame having a pole member comprising:

a hub member having a central aperture sized to receive the pole member of the umbrella frame,

said hub member movably mounted on the pole member and slidable along a length thereof between a bottom end and a top end thereof,

said hub member having an upper portion and a lower portion,

a channel continuously disposed on said hub member and extending about an exterior peripheral surface thereof,

a plurality of brackets disposed within said channel and fixedly connected to said hub member so as to prevent rotational movement of said brackets, and

said plurality of brackets pivotally connected to end

portions of a plurality of strut members of the umbrella frame.

15. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said plurality of brackets are fixedly disposed within said channel in spaced relation to one another.
16. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 14 further comprising a band disposed within and extending along a length of said channel.
17. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said plurality of brackets are connected to said band and collectively extend about an exterior periphery of said hub member.
18. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said channel is formed in and at least partially defines an exterior peripheral surface of said hub member.
19. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 18 wherein said channel is formed adjacent said upper portion of said hub member and is at least partially defined by a lower ledge extending along a length of said channel.
20. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said lower ledge extends continuously along a

length of said channel.

21. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 20 further comprising an upper ledge disposed in spaced relation to said lower ledge and extending continuously along a length of said channel.

22. (Previously Presented) A hub assembly as recited in claim 21 wherein said plurality of brackets are dimensioned and configured to be fixedly secured to said hub member within said channel and between said lower and upper ledges.

23. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said band comprises a substantially flat configuration.

24. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said band further comprises a metallic material.

25. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein said band further comprises plastic.

26. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said band is fixedly secured to said exterior peripheral surface of said hub member.

27. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said band comprises a metallic material.

28. (New) A hub assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said band comprises plastic.